COTTON CHATS

FROM

DRAPER COMPANY

SHIPMAN'S
COMMON-SENSE BINDER

PATENTED

JANUARY 19, 1892. APRIL 19, 1904

To open binder, remove the slides from fasteners raise the fasteners to an erect position and then file papers. For punching: lay the papers on covers and mark sheets to correspond with fasteners.

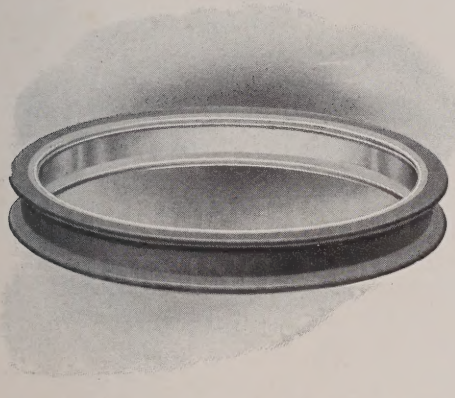
If DUPLICATE is wanted ORDER 25981

ASA L. SHIPMAN'S SONS
MANUFACTURERS,
NEW YORK.

COTTON CHATS

By the Secretary of the
DRAPER COMPANY,
HOPEDALE, MASS.

No. 58. JANUARY, 1907.



THE THOMPSON PATENT MIRROR FINISH SPINNING RING.

We are sending out circulars this month giving full detail of one of the most important Ring improvements that we have ever introduced. We have a new polish for the inner, or working flange, of a spinning ring, that smooths the surface so that the ring will start like an old ring. We think it will wear out but one-half the travellers in starting up as compared with any other ring finish known—**and we sell this ring at the same old price.**

• • •

DIARIES AND CALENDARS.

We are sending pocket diaries to all of the names on our Cotton Chats list, and also to many other individuals interested in cotton manufacture. We have a surplus left over which we would be very glad to use, and we also wish to increase our Cotton Chats mailing list. If any regular receiver of Cotton Chats knows of overseers, master

mechanics, or second-hands, in large mills, who would like to have Cotton Chats, we would be glad to get their names and will send them diaries until the surplus is exhausted.

We also call attention to the fact that **it is necessary to keep us posted as to changes in address,** if the Cotton Chats are to be regularly received.

We also have a surplus of our regular calendars—not the thermometer kind—those are very scarce. We will be pleased to send copies of the regular style to any cotton mill men—as long as they last.

• • •

BULLETIN 63

Of the Department of Commerce and Labor reports the following facts as of date Aug. 31, 1906.

Cotton Spindles in Northern States	16,816,813
" " " Southern "	8,994,868
Total,	25,811,681
In 1896, "Cotton Facts" reported	
Cotton Spindles in Northern States	13,800,000
" " " Southern "	2,850,000
	16,650,000

This shows a gain in 10 years of
about 3,000,000 spindles in the North
and over 6,000,000 " " South.

The average gain for the country is, therefore, about 900,000 per year. The increase in England is probably greater for the last three years, but considerably less for the whole 10 years. Printed reports of increases usually include spindles for new mills which may not start up within the year and thus spread the average over other years.

The increase in Northern States is largely in the line of spindles for fine yarn and includes a good proportion of mule spindles. The new spindles in the South are practically all frame spindles.

The bulletin reports but 561,585 idle spindles in the United States, but its information is evidently erroneous if taken to mean what it naturally implies. Those who furnished the information probably meant to include only

spindles which were in dead plants or had been idle all of the year. As a matter of fact, the average number of spindles idle for twelve months would be much more than the figure given, as the cotton mills have been seriously embarrassed for lack of help. To offset this, however, is the fact that certain mills have run nights part of the year, thus getting a double product per spindle.

As to cotton consumed,

Southern mills used	2,373,677	bales
Other " "	2,313,411	"
Total,	4,687,088	"

This shows that the Southern mills consume nearly twice as much cotton **per spindle** as the Northern mills, largely by reason of the coarser yarns made. It is possible that some of this difference is due to the fact that the South has a higher proportion of modern machinery with faster running spindles.

• • •

Statistics of Exports and Imports are always of interest. The Bulletin gives the following for the year ending June 30, 1906:

Cotton	Exports	Imports
Colored cloth,	$6,929,307	$11,719,880
Uncolored,	36,252,553	216,711
Wearing apparel,	4,338,575	2,915,382
Cotton waste,	1,852,154	
Yarn,	365,452	2,598,724
Hosiery and knit goods,		7,218,897
Laces, Embroideries, etc.		34,022,469
All other,	3,205,992	4,351,259
Total	$52,944,033	$63,043,322

The classification in the two columns is not perhaps exactly similar, but I take the figures as given under headings of near similarity.

These figures offer much food for thought to those who may be inclined to favor lower tariff. We are losing $11,000,000 in balance of trade in this field in spite of our present high tariff.

The following quotation from the same Bulletin is of interest:

With the exception of the Northrop loom, British subjects have been the world's benefactors in regard to textile machines.

While we appreciate the compliment we hardly understand why the writer should have left out the cotton gin, the sewing machine, the ring-spinning frame, the high-speed spindles, the spooler bobbin-holder, the chain-dyeing system, the warp tying-in machine, the warp drawing-in machine, and other purely American conceptions.

Another quotation reads:

The small American exports of textile machinery may be attributed in part to the rapid development of the textile industry in this country, making it impracticable for our manufacturers to do more than meet the home demand for their machinery.

It is rather hard to understand how the American manufacturers of machinery are going to compete with foreign builders when they pay more for their raw materials and twice as much—or thereabouts--for their labor.

We can only sell machinery abroad of special kinds protected by their own complication or by patents. It is well known that much foreign cotton machinery is imported in spite of the tariff, showing that it can be made that much cheaper abroad. We do not import Pickers or Looms because these machines have a low percentage of labor to weight of material. We do import Cards, Combers, Roving Frames, Mules and other machinery in which the labor cost is high. We, ourselves, by control of patents, have saved certain departments from Foreign competition.

American machinery builders can compete with any in the world if they have equally cheap raw material and equally cheap labor. Cheaper raw material means cheaper labor used in handling the raw material. Cheaper labor all around means less money in the pockets of the purchasing public and less goods purchased. **There is no gain in getting cheaper machinery at the sacrifice of sales and prices for goods made with the machinery.**

• • •